

## FISHING ACTIVITIES OFF THE WEST COAST OF INDIA

1. There are over 300,000 fishing boats operating off the Indian coast. Fishing off the West coast of India is most intense during the post southwest monsoon and extends up to 50-70 nm from the coastline. Fishing activities in this area are undertaken by motorised and mechanized fishing boats

### FISHING GROUNDS - WEST COAST OF INDIA



1. Wadge Bank
2. Quilon Ground
3. Cochin Ground
4. Kilmin Ground
5. Kalava Ground
6. Skipper Andreassen's Ground
7. Cannanore Ground
8. Mangalore Ground
9. Karwar Ground
10. Indus Ground
11. Kutch Ground
12. Mandvi Ground
13. Dwarka Ground
14. Veraval Ground
15. Katchiavar Ground
16. Cambay Ground
17. Jafarabad Ground
18. Bulsar Ground
19. The Fifty Fathoms Ground
20. Bombay Ground
21. Small Konkan Fishing Ground
22. Great Konkan Fishing Ground

2. The fishing grounds off the West coast of India extend upto a depth of 80 metres in depth off Kerala and the continental shelf extends upto 50 NM from the coast. The 50 fathoms fishing ground off the Maharashtra coast extends upto to nearly 100 NM from the coast. Dense fishing activity is observed post monsoons. Fishing ban is imposed by the Govt. of India for a period of nearly two months during the monsoons which varies from state to state during the period June – Aug every year. However, traditional fishing boats are permitted to carryout fishing during the ban period.

3. Motorised fishing vessels with outboard motors (OBM) generally operate up to about 50-60 nm away from the coast using long lines or spreading their nets for a few hours throughout the day. They would remain unlit, and do an east-west course coming to or going back from fishing grounds and criss-cross the track of the merchant ships who had in several occasions mistook them as 'threatened approach' and the fishing boats as skiffs. They are generally found off Kerala and Gujarat coasts



**Motorised fishing craft**

4. Fishing by mechanised fishing vessels is either by trawling, or ring seiners off the West coast and pre-dominantly purseining off the Karnataka and Goa coast. The purseine boats which had been confused as 'chase boats' by merchant vessels, usually tow a small boat used to lay nets.



**Small boat being towed by purseine boat**



**Mechanised fishing boat trawler**

4. The ringseiners are mechanised boats which lay large nets up to nearly 2 km for an extended duration, would remain stationery and take several hours to recover the nets manually. These boats operate up to 30-40 nm off the coast of Kerala. There are usually 15-20 people onboard. See photograph below.



**Ring seine vessel off Kerala coast**

## Weather

4. The meteorological condition in the Arabian Sea is characterized by the two monsoons – the South-West and the North-East. The latter lasts from September to May and the former from May to September, a period called the rainy season. The best time for regular fishing is during the winter months when oceanographic conditions are quite stable. The currents are slow and the waters above the continental shelf do not change very much as far as temperature and other physical or chemical factors are concerned.